

April 30-May 2, 1982, p. 2

who, together with Joe Burrel, worked at putting in a few lancet windows. One or two of the new windows that Burrel made have cracked panes of glass in them and they were too large to fit in the holes. More about Saturday when I finish with Thursday and Friday. At the conclusion of the meeting, which didn't last too long, John Revak and John Buberniak and I went down to that coffee place on the Scranton Highway where we used to go when we were in high school. It was a drive-in type place then but no longer. We didn't stay too late and I was home before eleven. John Revak drove and so he drove John Buberniak home. I parked behind City Hall. On Saturday morning I went into town early, with HLRP, and went to the Post Office, where I collected up a large fist full of letters--largely orders for single copies of III, 3 as a consequence of stories in the Scrantonian and the Wayne Independent. One of the letters was from the Inner City Ventures Fund, informing us that our preliminary application had been received and assigned a number (C-MA-01), and telling us that organizations that will be invited to submit final applications will be asked to do so by May 20. I am not, quite frankly, extremely optimistic, but we'll see what happens. I didn't have very much time to fill out the application and so the application will not, perhaps, carry us into the finals. I arranged to meet HLRP at 11:30 at the Big Chief and so I was working with that deadline. David and I chatted about the CRCCH and I told him that Harold Litts and possibly someone from Hydro-Clean, Inc. would be calling about appointments on Saturday. Neither called and so I called them. Hydro-Clean, Inc. was out of town on a job and Harold Litts said, or rather his wife/office/whatever said, that he could probably look at the building on Saturday morning. He did show up at about 10:30 A.M. on Saturday and he is a nice fellow. One of the things that David and I will have to do this weekend is to compile a contractors' check list: who has been called and who has examined the building and who has submitted a bid and so on. The bids department is too unclear in my mind at the moment and will have to be sorted out. I went from 41 North Church to Memorial Park where I examined an apartment on the third floor of the Gillis Block. Benjamin Schnessel showed it to me. I'm sure that HLRP knows him; he is a lawyer. The apartment is large and it costs \$200 per month (heat and hot water included). I'm still waiting for the Mayor and the City Council to tell me that I can be Caretaker of City Hall. No word from them at all. DJB has told me that he has discussed the proposal that I made to become Caretaker with a few people and "they all think that I am crazy"--when David told me that, I replied: "I'm sure I am. Maybe that's what Carbondale needs, a little more craziness." I concluded my business in town and went up to the Big Chief to wait for HLRP. At 11:30 A.M., right on schedule, she drove into the lot and I waited for her just inside the entrance. Punctuality seems to be a quality of most everyone in the family, and it is an admirable quality that we all have. I had an appointment with some masons at 12 P.M. at the NEWS office and so HLRP and I sped around the Big Chief and then home (HLRP had bought Carwanna hot dogs for lunch but did not buy any for me because I had to leave) and I went back into town and to the NEWS office where two masons were waiting for me: I can't recall the name of the Company at the moment. It seems to me now that they were from Taylor or Old Forge or somewhere "down the line." They will submit a bid and I will get the name them. They both were waiting for me when I entered the NEWS office and I was somewhat taken aback: they both have physiques like muscle builders and I felt like a pipsqueek between them. They were both very friendly and we walked down to the City Hall and I told them about the project as we walked. They listened well and as I was showing them the building Tom Brennan passed by and we said hello and that was that. The masons will submit bids: for the Tower and the remainder of the building as well. After I saw the masons I went to the Post Office to check the post box and picked up a couple more letters and then

April 30-May 2, 1982, p. 3

decided that the time had come to have a chat with Postmaster Barrett about having the four globes replaced outside the Post Office. I knocked on the door and Postmaster Barrett appeared and we had a very pleasant chat. He was very supportive and said that he too would like to see the globes replaced. See my letter to John P. Turnbach where I set forth many of the details of my visit with Postmaster Barrett (letter dated May 4, 1982). Postmaster Barrett got his friend Bruno P. Smicherko, Sr. (Postal Operations Analyst, Davis Street, Scranton 969-5111) on the line/phone and started the conversation as follows: "Bruno, this is Gerry. I have one of our live wire citizens here with me, and I'd like you to hear him out. He has a proposal to make...." Postmaster Barrett and I toured the Post Office, to examine the new lights that have been installed on the inside: new lights that are more energy efficient. Smicherko told me to write Turnbach, which I did. I have yet to bring up this Post Office project with my fellow committee members and I will do so tonight. Postmaster Barrett says that the project will cost about \$400 and that the bulbs/globes can be purchased from Lewis & Reif in Scranton and that the new lights can be separately metered. Postmaster Barrett told me that "even if the lights were replaced, we couldn't turn them on because it would be too expensive." I then told him (Postmaster Barrett) that the Committee would provide a fund for the light bills. How much can it cost? A few dollars per month. After I wrote my letter to Turnbach I sent copies to Barrett: one for him and one for his friend Smicherko. During my weekend visit in Carbondale I will stop in and see Postmaster Barrett and see what the story is, as one says. After my visit with Postmaster Barrett I went home and spent the afternoon there, doing just what I am not certain at the moment, but I will think about it a bit and see what comes to mind. Probably I went down to Brookvalley for a visit, exactly, that is what I did. RTP and I looked for some wire to block up the holes in the tower of City Hall and also we got some more empty bags ready. I left them inside the door of the barn and picked them up on Saturday morning. It was a very relaxed visit, naturally. Friday evening was a quite one at home with HLRP and WSP. Saturday A.M. I arrived at City Hall at 10 A.M. and John Buberniak was there and we ascended to the tower and began screening out the pigeons with the plastic mesh that WSP produced from I'm not sure where--someone gave it to him a few years ago--was it the Stuckeys or someone like that: 400 square feet. It worked out perfectly, and I believe that the pigeons are now screened out of the tower. At about 10:30 Harold Litts showed up and I showed him around. Another nice mason. He will submit a bid says he. JVB helped him measure the building. Litts says that he works in conjunction with Larry Hartpense: Litts uses the same scaffolding that Hartpense does and so they make a good team. John and I stopped for lunch. It seems that John Revak was there, but I can't remember now for sure. John insisted on buying me lunch. I accepted. We had cheeseburgers, french fries and John had a coke and I had coffee. We returned to the tower and finished screening out the pigeons. At the conclusion of our work session, we went down to see John's mother at the Goodwill store and his grandmother was there, Mrs. John Buberniak. She reminisced about the Russell Ice Cream Store and told me she remembered Jimmy's death. It was a very pleasant visit. John and I went up and sat in the Park and looked at the building and watched the frustrated pigeons as they tried to enter the building. I bought us cokes and muffins in McDonnell's and we rested in Memorial Park. I then asked John to show me the spot on the hill that he spoke of from which one has a splendid view of Carbondale and he did. Up at the top of Lincoln Avenue and over a bit. He showed me a Gravity Railroad Car owned by a Mr. Ihlefeltdt--painted blue and white, and in good repair. At the conclusion of our view taking, I dropped John off at his house on Canaan Street and went home. John showed me a few bottles that he had by the side of the family garage--bottles that he had found in garbage dumps and that would probably be of interest to Kurt Reed. Saturday night at home. Sunday morning I was up early and